

# The Brooklyn Paper

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## COUNCIL FOULS OUT

### Community residents not allowed to speak until press and most officials leave hearing



Attorney Norman Siegel, flanked by Councilwoman Letitia James, speaks to reporters on behalf of the coalition Develop Don't Destroy-Brooklyn, in City Hall Tuesday. The press conference was held before the Economic Development Committee's hearing on Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards plan.

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

After battling to have their voices heard in an official public forum, community members were left fuming this week when a City Council hearing on the Atlantic Yards arena proposal left them waiting nearly five hours to testify.

The delay meant that their testimony was not heard by most daily news media, whose reporters left to file stories for the evening deadline, and even many council members and officials had long since departed the council chambers by the time the largely anti-arena testifiers spoke.

By the last hour of the hearing, which ran until about 7:30 pm, only the chairman of the Economic Development Committee that hosted the hearing, Queens Councilman James Sanders, and Prospect Heights Councilwoman Letitia James, a member of the committee and a staunch opponent of the plan, remained out of nine members of the panel.

More than 300 supporters and opponents of the plan packed into the standing-room-only council chambers at 10 am on Tuesday, many taking the day off from work to weigh in on the \$2.5 billion commercial, retail and residential development in Prospect Heights.

While representatives of Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner and his Forest City Ratner company, as well as officials from the city Economic Development Corp. and Borough President Marty Markowitz — both proponents of the plan, which would bring the New Jersey Nets basketball team to Brooklyn — all got a chance to speak at some length, community members were offered just two-minute slots and did not get to testify until after 3 pm.

By that time less than half of those who had wished to testify remained and only a handful of

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council members were still in attendance. Almost all the press had gone, and even the EDC officials had packed up their bags and headed out.

Bertha Lewis, executive director of the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), which is in support of the plan, blasted officials, saying that if city officials had really wanted community input they would have let the community speak.

ACORN brought six buses of supporters of Ratner's arena, office skyscraper and housing plan to the hearing.

"Some community members had to leave to go pick up their children from school," said Lewis, who railed against the hearing's organizers for putting off community speakers until the end.

Norman Siegel, the lawyer and former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, who is representing about 150 residents fighting the condemnation of their property to build the 21-acre development, also called the hearing "extremely unfair."

"People this morning said they wanted an

See **PUBLIC SHUT OUT** on page 15



## Great deals, amazing views

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

On Saturday, May 8, the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists' exhibit unveils its 12th annual Pier Art Show with a reception and a live performance by the band Lovebutton.

Part neighborhood celebration and part treasure trove of emerging Brooklyn artists, the enormous collection of works, displayed in a warehouse on the Red Hook waterfront, is worth a visit whether you're a collector, an artist in need of inspiration, or an art lover in need of fresh air and wonderful views.

This year's exhibit spans 20,000 square feet of gallery space and features the works of 300 artists.

In the BWAC Community Outreach Exhibit, the works by patients in the Creative Arts Therapy program — including J. Gonzalez's painting, "6 am on the J @ 100" (pictured) — will be on display.

The exhibit, open on weekends through June 27 and Memorial Day, May 31) from noon to 6 pm, also has live music, slide presentations and lectures.

Admission is free. Free shuttle bus service will be available from the Smith-9th Street G and F train station from noon to 6 pm on May 8 and on June 27. The show is in a warehouse at on the waterfront at 499 Van Brunt St. For more information, visit [www.bwac.org](http://www.bwac.org) or call (718) 596-2507.

**GO  
BEGINS ON  
PAGE 7**

## Coalition cracking

### Source: Owners starting to cut deals

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

A coalition of property owners who banded together to fight developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards basketball arena, office tower and housing proposal showed signs this week of crumbling.

Only a handful of tenants and homeowners living on the two blocks facing condemnation under the state's authority of eminent domain came to testify at Tuesday's City Council hearing. Of the project's opponents who came to testify, most do not live on the site.

The group, known as Develop Don't Destroy-Brooklyn, who banded together earlier this year to hire civil rights attorney Norman Siegel to fight the plan, has hosted several large-turnout rallies in the past few months, comprised largely of the people who would either be evicted or have their property condemned if the plan is approved.

But aside from the conspicuously slim turnout at Tuesday's public hearing, there were other, more overt signs of a fractured coalition this week. Anti-Atlantic Yards posters have come down from the entryway and most windows of 636 Pacific St., one of many buildings that would face the wrecking ball to make way for the 21-acre residential, retail and commercial complex.

Why have the residents gone silent? Because they're negotiating with Ratner to sell their homes,

**EXCLUSIVE**

sources told The Brooklyn Papers.

Ratner is the principal owner of Forest City Ratner, best known for constructing the

Metrotech office complex in Downtown Brooklyn.

Just last week, all but two of the 31 condominium owners at 636 Pacific St., a nine-story building known as the Atlantic Art Building, were negotiating with Ratner to sell their apart-

ments, sources told The Brooklyn Papers.

The art-deco former storage building, converted into luxury condos last year, is just one of many buildings facing condemnation as part of the plan.

See **CRACKING** on page 15

## Experts slam Ratner's 'dribble-down' study

**Say developer's paid-for study is based on false assumptions**

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

A sports economist hired by Atlantic Yards developer Bruce Ratner to study the financial feasibility of the basketball arena, office tower and housing plan released his results this week to a great deal of criticism.

Ratner commissioned the study by Andrew Zimbalist — some call it his "dribble-down theory" — and it used numbers and assumptions largely provided by the developer's project planners. It concludes that



Bruce Ratner

the entire project would net \$812 million of additional revenue for the city and state over the next 30 years.

Zimbalist, a professor at Smith College in Massachusetts, has written several books on sports economics and has regularly described arenas and stadiums

as having no direct economic benefits on local economies.

He says the Ratner project is different because of the residential and commercial component.

But this week, many of Zimbalist's peers came out challenging some of his figures and assumptions.

According to the report, released Monday, the city and state will pitch in \$18 million per year for the arena and will take in about \$17.7 million from the sports complex, intended as home to Ratner's recently purchased New Jersey Nets.

Zimbalist estimates that infrastructure costs, including a platform that would have to be built over the rail yards, and eminent domain property takings, will cost \$187.3 million.

The large-scale development only becomes profitable when

See **RATNER'S** on page 15

## Preservationists: Ikea bad

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

As Ikea moves to city review of its plan to build a big-box store along the Red Hook waterfront, a real estate developer proposing an alternative development for the site has garnered support from city preservation groups.

That's because to make way for the

346,000-square-foot home furnishing emporium, Ikea is looking to knock down about a dozen buildings, some dating back to the Civil War.

The former Todd Shipyard's site, more recently known as the New York Shipyard — roughly bounded by Dwight Street, Columbia Street and the Eric Basin — was once home to the largest dry dock on the east coast. Civil War ships were among those repaired there.

While Ikea officials maintain that the

buildings are beyond salvaging, Bill Struener, president of the Baltimore-based Struener Bros. Eccles & Rouse (SBER) disagrees.

"That's baloney," said Struener, who calls the buildings "majestic" and is looking to build a sprawling, 70-acre retail, residential and commercial development between Richards and Columbia streets along the Eric Basin.

"We do this as a business. We've done

See **IKEA** on page 15

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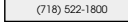


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## BLOTTER...

*Continued from page 2*

The incident occurred at 3:45 pm on April 30.

### Nice knowing ya

A man walking on Sixth Avenue at Third Street on May 1 at 6 pm was stopped by an acquaintance who asked if he could spare a dollar.

When the 23-year-old Brighton Beach resident reached for his wallet, the acquaintance grabbed all the cash and ran.

When the victim caught up to him, the not-so-freely acquaintance pulled out a needle and threatened him, police said.

The attacker made off with \$40.

### Bible thumper

When a car thief smashed his way into a Honda Accord on Flatbush Avenue this week he got away with both a bit of religion and then some.

A 30-year-old motorist parked his car at the edge of Prospect Park near Empire Boulevard at 11 am on April 24. When he returned at 4 pm, the rear passenger-side window was smashed in.

A leather-covered bible, MP3 player, cell phone, car keys for another car and a carling iron were all stolen, police said.

### Rear window

A burglar broke into an apartment on Fourth Avenue at Seventh Street and made off with fists full of jewelry on April 27.

The victim, 36, left for work at 7:45 am, and returned home about 12 hours later. Some time in between a bandit broke in through the locked rear window leading to the fire escape and helped himself to a pair of diamond stud earrings, valued at \$1,000 a necklace with a cross and elephant pendants and other assorted jewelry.

Police said the burglar let himself out through the front door.

### F Train jump

A 50-year-old man threw himself in front of an F train as it neared the York Street station near Jay Street in DUMBO on May 3, police said.

The motorist on the Manhattan-bound F train saw the man leap from the platform as the train approached the station at 8 pm. He pulled the breaks but it was too late. The Williamsburg man was declared dead at the scene.

Subway service was tem-

porarily halted as the train had to be jacked up so emergency workers could remove the body.

### Atlantic burgle

An Atlantic Avenue resident was in school when a thief broke into her apartment near Nevins Street and cleared the place out.

The victim, 26, left her home at 11:30 am and returned at 5:30 pm on April 29.

Sometime in between a bandit broke in and made off with a digital camera, three gold rings — which she valued at \$2,600 — and a Dell laptop computer, police said.

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# B'klyn detainees claim abuse

By Tom Hays  
 Associated Press

A Middle Eastern immigrant was violated with a flashlight while being strip searched at a federal jail in Sunset Park following the Sept. 11 attacks, a new lawsuit alleges.

The suit was filed Monday by the alleged victim, Ehab Elmaghaby, and another former detainee, Javadi Iqbal, who both claim they were locked in solitary confinement, beaten and verbally abused by guards at the jail on Long Island, "were subjected

to numerous unreasonable and unnecessary" strip searches, the suit says.

Shortly after the men were detained as possible terrorist suspects, one guard allegedly paraded Elmaghaby naked in front of a female co-worker. The same guard later "willfully and maliciously inserted a flashlight in [his] anal cavity," as others watched, the suit said, adding that it made Elmaghaby bleed.

Both Elmaghaby and Javadi Iqbal allege they were shackled, punched and called "Muslim bastards" and other epithets. They also claim they

were kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day and denied adequate meals and medical care at the jail, which was cited for brutal treatment of detainees in a report last year by the Justice Department Inspector General.

"I thought I was going to die in there," Elmaghaby said through a lawyer.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons would not comment on the suit but said the bureau was investigating similar allegations against staff members.

The former warden of the prison responded in a report

published by the New York Times Wednesday.

"I did not subscribe to doing anything but handling detainees in a restrained, professional manner," the former warden, Dennis Hasty, told the Times.

Hasty, 54, retired from the Metropolitan Detention Center in April 2002 after 30 years in the federal prison system.

A Justice Department report last year found "significant problems" with the treatment of post-Sept. 11 detainees at the Brooklyn jail, including physical abuse and mistreatment.

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# Getting inside Sandy the Seagull

## Writer sweats the small stuff as Brooklyn's favorite mascot

By Vince DiMiceli  
The Brooklyn Papers

What would you give for a chance to be Sandy the Seagull for a day?

For me, the answer is about half a gallon of sweat.

That's what I learned on Wednesday during Brooklyn Cyclones Mascot Tryouts at Kips Bay Park.

I feel as though I lost about five pounds after an hour inside the costume/sauna that transformed me into Brooklyn's favorite mascot.

And I was the lucky one. I think the Daily News' Bill Farrell — who was in a hot dog getup — might have broke his hip.

Farrell and I took part in a challenge to see who would be picked as best mascot by a group of pre-Kindergarten children from Public School 236 on Avenue U in Mill Basin.

It was promised to be a contest between a number of members of the New York media to see who had what it takes to silently make a crowd come to life while dressed as a 7-foot-tall stuffed animal. Unfortunately, most didn't show, probably scared off by my boast to Cyclones media rep Elizabeth Warshaw that I would not only win the contest, but I'd write the best story.

That left just the two of us and a bunch of photographers to be briefed by Cyclones promotions and entertainment manager Howie Wolpoff, who explained the ins-and-

outs of professional mascot-ing.

"It's all about entertainment and interaction with the fans. You're a visual representation of the team," he said. "You're the team's non-speaking spokesperson."

With that, we were asked to take a Cyclones Mascot Aptitude Test, the C-MAT of on-field clownery given to every perspective mascot. The seven-question, multiple-choice quiz checks your knowledge of mascots past, as well as your ability to handle the job.

I passed with flying colors, knowing that the "godfather of all mascots" is the San Diego Chicken, and that, despite the temptation, one should never use the tarpulin as a giant "slip and slide" during a rain delay, because it could ruin your costume.

The test behind us, it was time to suit up. I offered Farrell the opportunity to pick his

costume first and, for some reason (maybe he was hungry?) he chose a hot dog. That allowed me to suit up in Sandy's garb — which features white feathered gloves, boots, overalls, and a large, un-vented head — and insure my victory. I mean, what kid is going to pick a cheap sausage with eyes and a cape over a giant, fluffy seagull that likes to dance.

Once fully suited, I immediately passed my first real-time test. When asked if I was ready to go, I gave two thumbs (well, feathers) up — insuring I didn't break the coveted "no talking" rule.

Then, something happened. As I walked through the tunnels of the stadium toward the field, something came over me. I don't know if it was caused by the sounds of the kids cheerfully awaiting my appearance, or the fact that my head was already about

125 degrees. But while I made that walk, I became — in mind and body — Sandy the Seagull.

And as a seagull, my first inclination was to eat that giant hot dog walking in front of me. So I pecked away at Farrell's bun. Mmmmmmm.

Once on the field, the sun on my beak, the kids cheered my arrival. I greeted them with high-feeathers before the real competition began. We were asked to show some emotions — fear, anger and ... sleep — before we had to pull out all the stops with a dance. At first, the kids weren't responding. Not even my famous "worm" could get them going.

That's when I pulled my trump card, inviting a little girl to dance along with me. She played along and I received the biggest cheer.

But then came the obstacle course, where we had to run



The Brooklyn Papers' Vince DiMiceli (dressed as Sandy the Seagull) takes the prize as children's choice of best mascot as Daily News' Bill Farrell (dressed as hot dog) looks on.

around the bases while wearing around cones and picking up hula-hoops. It looked diffi-

cult, especially with my head now reaching about 150 degrees.

scared.

"Don't lose your head," said "Party" Marty Haber, the Cyclones' human mascot cum emcee, meaning it quite literally. "I did once. The kids get really upset."

But I didn't. I rounded the bases with the showmanship of ... a ... a ... a true showman. I danced around the cones and did somersaults while picking up the hula-hoops. And when the dust settled, while dazed and out of breath, I was crowned best mascot.

"How does it feel?" Cyclones media relations head Dave Campanaro asked while we made our way off the field.

"Sandy's ... having ... heart failure," I huffed.

Inside, I undressed, covered in sweat and ready for a shower after just an hour in the suit, which was now filthy from my antics.

"I'm going to have a tough time cleaning that," Wolpoff said, a bit upset with its condition.

"Huh. Promotions and entertainment managers. They don't know what it takes to put on a show," I thought to myself.

"But I do."



New street signs were installed on Atlantic Avenue recently, but it's the new doorway lighting on stores and restaurants that will be unveiled this week.

The Brooklyn Papers

Thirty years after the first Atlantic Avenue street festival was organized to boost a then-ailing Atlantic Avenue, the commercial strip is bracing for a different sort of shot in the arm.

Things have certainly changed since then, with hip restaurants and hand-woven rug stores opening their doors along the thoroughfare.

This week, the Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corp. kicks off a doorway lighting

program with new high-tech diodes to brighten the streetscape.

The lights will be affixed above the doors of 150 stores, restaurants and bars between Fourth Avenue and Hicks Street thanks to a donation from Osram Sylvania, one of the world's largest light bulb manufacturers.

The energy-efficient lighting, intended to bring added safety, will also be stylish thanks to lighting designer Leni Schwendinger who was hired on for the project.

Schwendinger, who is currently working on aesthetic lighting for the Port Authority bus

terminal ramps on Ninth Avenue in Manhattan, said she is excited about the project.

The new lighting, Schwendinger said, will last for 20,000 hours compared to 1,500 hours for a 60-watt light bulb.

And that isn't the only change along the quickly gentrifying strip.

The city Department of Transportation recently installed oversized street signs at major intersections along the avenue to help motorists negotiate the busy streets. The signs hang from the traffic signals over the avenue, much like street signs in other major cities.

The street corner street signs remain, as well.

Store owners in the area say they welcome the changes and hope the lighting will be a boost for business.

Elissa Jane Mastel, owner of Urban Monster, a baby boutique at 396 Atlantic Ave., near Hoyt Street, said the extra lighting would be a welcome addition.

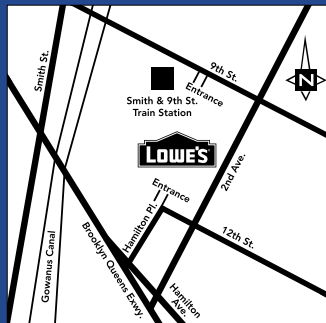
"I think if there was more lighting I would be open later," said Mastel, who said she would often run to the subway station at night when she first opened the shop almost two years ago.

— Deborah Kolben



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## V-Day for Dyker vet

### Corporal helped liberate Europe

By Jotham Soderstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

MAY 8, 2004 — Fifty-nine years ago today, Corporal Paul Battaglia was not in Dyker Heights, where he now lives, but in Czechoslovakia, just outside of Prague.

Then an enlistee in the 5th Infantry Division, the lifelong Brooklynite was on the front lines on the afternoon of May 8, 1945, when Germany's surrender to the Allied forces became official.

Although today Battaglia, 84, suffers from Alzheimer's disease — as does his wife, Nellie — his memory of that day, observed as V-E, or Victory in Europe Day, is sharp as a knife, thanks to a one-sheet newspaper published the day after that victory.

"It's part of my life, my experiences in war," Battaglia said this week.

The retired printer unearthed the newspaper, published by the 5th Infantry, while moving from Carroll Gardens, where he had lived his entire life until last year. Named after the monkier penned for the 5th Infantry, "Diamond Dust," the paper chronicled the war as seen through those soldiers' eyes.

Battaglia discovered the newspaper, which reported the occasion on two sides of one yellowed sheet, while unpacking a box long stowed away. Besides the paper, Battaglia said the box also contained an armband emblazoned with a Swastika and several pictures of Germany's rulers, including Adolf Hitler, all of which he passed along to nieces and nephews. According to Schroeder's Antique Price Guide, the armband would fetch a paltry \$45, partially because of the anger such a collectible still draws.

Asked why he chose to keep the newspaper, but give away the other mementos, Battaglia said, "That's where I was and that's what I fought for. It's just something I wanted to save, like anything else." Laurie Campbell Toth, whose father, Bruce Camp-



World War II veteran Paul Battaglia, in his Dyker Heights home, holds an original copy of a newspaper, Diamond Dust, put out for the 5th Infantry, announcing the end of the war in Europe 59 years ago.

bell, published the newspaper from October 1944 to May 1945, said that the small staff reported on the front lines.

Battaglia reminisced about the three years he spent in England, Germany, Austria, France and Czechoslovakia.

In 1942, then a wide-eyed 22-year-old, Battaglia enlisted and was flown to England, where he served as an engineer, mostly laying track for the U.S. Army. Several months later he took up printing for the Army, as he did before enlisting, at a govern-

ment-run printing plant in Cheltenham. For nearly two years he helped print military stationery, propaganda literature and advertising.

Before being shipped off to Germany, Battaglia spent several months training for the 5th Infantry in France, just outside of Paris.

In Germany, Battaglia had his first taste of battle while behind a mortar gun. "The Infantry were the ones up in the front," said Battaglia. "They were the ones responsible for the destruction."

Announcing "Boche Kaput!" which roughly translates to "Germany Finished," the article regaled soldiers with 10 paragraphs celebrating the defeat of Adolf Hitler. A drawing of a soldier with his rifle shattering a Swastika is featured on the front page, just above two paragraphs of script.

"Peace broke out today in Europe as the Allies declared 8 May 1945 Victory-Europe Day and the entire German army surrendered unconditionally to the 'overwhelming strength' of the United States, Great Britain and Russia," the paper announced on its front page.

The paper, published on a Tuesday "somewhere in Czechoslovakia," goes on to echo reports from Moscow, Sweden and the British Broadcasting Channel, each announcing in the article the deaths and victories now considered history.

The bodies of (Nazi propaganda chief Joseph) Goebbels and his family were found in Berlin by the Russians," the report continues.

"They had died of poisoning. The body of Field Marshal (Fedor) von Bock was found on the battlefield, Moscow radio said. The U.S. Department of Agriculture says that the Allies will have to feed every liberated country in Europe for the next 15 months."

While Frank Sinatra's version of "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" played on his home stereo during a reporter's visit this week, Battaglia said that turmoil in Iraq has kept him awake at night. The father of three sons, two of whom were drafted during the Vietnam War, said that since his tour of duty he's had an about-face on war.

"Terrible, terrible, terrible, I can't sleep at night," he said of the fighting in Iraq. "Even if one child, one boy gets killed, that's someone's child."

"Thank God, I didn't see too many friends of mine die," said Battaglia. "Everybody lost somebody. Everybody is going to have somebody who knows somebody who died."

### ADVERTISER FOCUS

## Get a new outfit at Luce



(Above) Alexis Gonzalez is reflected in a mirror while shopping at Luce, 281 Van Brunt St. in Red Hook. (Below) A row of tank tops for sale.

As you head over to the Red Hook Pier this Sunday for the BWAC art show, there's one place you must duck into on the way down Van Brunt Street: it's a new clothing boutique called Luce, and it's got something for everyone.

Partners Gerri and Judy, both long-time Brooklyn residents, wanted the store the moment they saw it. "We were driving through the Hook one day, and saw the store; we just fell in love with it and said, let's go ahead and rent it!" said Gerri. "This is how I bought my house, my car, this is how I do things. I go with my gut instinct."

"The raw space was great, we just had such a good feeling about it. I immediately wanted to do clothing," said Judy. "Hopefully now, with Red Hook developing into a destination, it will click and be a real success."

Van Brunt between Pioneer and Visitation has changed rapidly. Two brand new bars are racing to open up on the block, and a lovely French restaurant already draws customers from a wide area. Luce's attractive storefront windows beckon to folks walking by or driving through.

"Whether you need a gown tonight, or a shirt to wear to the game tomorrow, you can find it at Luce," said Judy, whose family has been involved with the fashion industry for many years. "We sell loads of tops! Black lace tops, tee shirts; the prices range from \$25 to \$85 on our tops, and are a mix of casual and dressy."

While you'll find extra smalls and extra larges here and there at Luce, Gerri and Judy go out of their way to select a small number of many unique items, making the store a haven of variety.

"It's a fun place," said Gerri. "What makes



as special is you'll have no fear of walking into a party and seeing the same clothing you bought at Luce on someone else."

Luce carries prom dresses, cotton bright summer Capri pants (long lengths, too), spring and summer skirts in cottons, jerseys and silk, both solids and prints. You'll also find a collection of classic little black dresses, for dramatic evenings out.

Luce is named for Gerri's "dearly departed cat, Lucy," and the warmth of her memory infuses the shop with a comfortable feeling.

Show up to the Pier art show (at 499 Van Brunt St.) in style this Sunday! Stop into Luce for a new outfit, or one for your mom. Luce, at 281 Van Brunt St. (between Pioneer Street & Visitation Place) is open Tuesdays through Sundays, from 11 am to 6 pm, and accepts all major credit cards. Call (718) 852-1345.

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#### Brooklyn

May 13, 10:00 AM  
Americana Restaurant (Bi-Lingual)  
6501 7th Ave.  
Btwn. 65th & 66th St.

#### Brooklyn

May 20, 10:00 AM  
Mirage Diner  
717 Kings Hwy.  
Cross St./E. 8th St.

#### Brooklyn

May 11, 10:00 AM  
Tiffany Diner  
9904 4th Ave.  
Cross St./99th St.

#### Brooklyn

May 13, 10:00 AM  
Arch Diner  
1866 Ralph Ave.  
Corner of Flatlands

#### Brooklyn

May 21, 10:00 AM  
Galaxy Diner  
805 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Cross St./Linden Blvd.

#### Brooklyn

May 12, 10:00 AM  
Del Rio Diner  
166 Kings Hwy.  
Cross St./W. 12th St.

#### Brooklyn

May 19, 10:00 AM  
Perry's Restaurant  
3482 Nostrand Ave.  
Btwn. Ave. U & V

#### Brooklyn

May 27, 10:00 AM  
Vegas Diner  
1619 86th St.  
Cross St./16th Ave.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 8, 2004

# Wong's so right

Retrospective of Wong Kar Wai films is rife with poetic misery

By Michael Wells  
for The Brooklyn Papers

A humid summer night. Dozing fitfully on your rumpled bed, you pine hopelessly for a lost love. Through your open window, rainfall, voices and passing radios intrude on your dreams, until you can't recall which parts are real and which fantasy.

No film artist has captured this misery and transmuted it into ecstasy more than Wong Kar Wai. From May 14 to May 23, just as warm nights hit the city, BAMcinematek will present "Living in Dreams: Films of Wong Kar Wai." His seven works as director/writer, plus three others that put his career in context, will be screened.

It is a particularly opportune moment for such a survey. The director's eighth opus, "2046," premieres at the Cannes Film Festival the same week. And Sofia Coppola recently acknowledged Wong's influence on "Lost in Translation" when accepting her Best Screenplay Oscar.

In the furiously commercial world of Hong Kong cinema, Wong is king of the misfits. His films are intensely interior yet so sensual you feel them on your skin. They drip and shimmer with expressionistic color, fetishistic detail and atmospheric music. And although they

rarely meet box-office success, they rake in awards and inspire imitators and parodists.

Wong started as just another screenwriter-for-hire, a period represented here by the comedy-action-horror crowdpleaser "The Haunted Cop Shop" (1987; screens May 21). Its director and co-writer, Jeffrey Lau, later partnered with Wong to form the Jet Tone production company.

Wong's directing debut, "As Tears Go By" (1988; May 21) is the umpteenth glossy knockoff of Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets." His only big hit to date as director, it's the Wong film for people who don't really like Wong films.

He found his voice with "Days of Being Wild" (1991; May 23), which wanders the damp night-time streets of early 1960s Hong Kong like one of its lost-youth protagonists. "Days" also inaugurated his collaboration with pop- and screen-idol Leslie Cheung, playing an angel-faced, but cold-blooded, womanizer with serious oedipal issues. Wong's nostalgic melancholy is all the more resonant in light of Cheung's suicide last April at the age of 45. In their three movies together, Wong exquisitely wielded the Cheung persona, a blend of dapper arrogance and quivering vulnerability.

Cheung was among eight major stars



Eat and run: As part of the "Living in Dreams: Films of Wong Kar Wai" series at BAMcinematek, the 1994 romantic comedy "Chungking Express" will be screened on May 15.

## CINEMA

"Living in Dreams: Films of Wong Kar Wai" will run May 14-23 at BAMcinematek, 30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$10, \$7 for students 25 and under (with valid ID). Monday-Thursday, except holidays, and \$6 for seniors, BAM Cinema Club members, and children under 12. For more information, log onto [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org) or call (718) 636-4100.

Amusingly, BAM's series even includes the bizarre footnote, "The Eagle-Shooting Hero" (1995; May 16). As the desert shoot for "Ashes" made cinders out of its schedule and budget, the entire principal cast took time out for this gonzo martial arts spoof, with Wong producing and his Jet Tone partner Lau directing. It must be one of the few instances of a movie made as a fundraiser for another movie.

"Chungking Express" (1994; May 15)

begin as a footnote: Wong knocked it out with atypical speed in back streets and hole-in-the-wall locations, during a break from editing "Ashes." Maybe consequently, it zips along with refreshing energy. It's his sweetest, most optimistic film, a romantic comedy at heart.

"Fallen Angels" (1995; May 23) is its darker B-side, using characters fallen from the "Chungking" script. Both trace the intersecting paths of nightdwelling loners. Both embody the big-city feeling of being surrounded, yet untouched, by a torrent of humanity. One offers hope for connection, the other dashes it.

"Happy Together" (1997; May 14) oscillates between these poles as it observes the integration of an expatriate gay couple stuck in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With two of Hong Kong's best actors, Leslie Cheung and Tony Leung Chiu Wai, onscreen almost constantly, it could have been a two-man show. But as always, the director is the real star, searing the screen with garish, decayed reds, the perfect haze for a love that has burned itself out.

Such craft seems to emerge willy-nilly from improvisatory rewriting and re-shooting suggestive of an obsessive-compulsive disorder. Amos Lee and Kwan Pun Leung's "Buenos Aires, Zero Degrees" (1999; May 20), offers a rare document of this prodigious directing process. Snippets from the many hours of unused "Happy Together" footage are augmented with cast and crew interviews and later film shot by Lee and Kwan on the original locations.

"In the Mood for Love" (2000; May 22), without dispelling Wong's hallucinatory nature, is his subtlest and most emotionally authentic film to date. Abandoning his trademark voiceover monologues, he lets fluttering glances and tensed shoulders express the unspoken passion between two married neighbors in a claustrophobic, middle-class tenement.

Coppola swiped the heart-piercing final scene, but accept no substitutes. This fleeting minute or so could stand as the career summit for any filmmaker, but it could have been made by only one.



His year: Filmmaker Wong Kar Wai (left), pictured in SoHo in 2000, will debut his latest work, "2046" at the Cannes Film Fest on May 20. His "Ashes of Time" (above) took years to complete.

## CINEMA

### Screen gems

The Brooklyn Arts Council's 38th International Film and Video Festival continues this weekend with screenings at the Brooklyn Museum's Cantor Auditorium, on May 8, from noon to 6 pm.

The series, which coincides with the museum's "Open House: Working in Brooklyn" exhibition — a survey of the borough's art scenes, will spotlight more than 20 short works and two longer documentaries by Brooklyn-based film and video artists.

A still from Jacqui Sutton and Evelyn Badia's 35-minute "Say What? (Adventures in Life, Love and Language)" is pictured at left.

The second film festival screening at the museum, "Independent Film and Video Artists," will be June 19. The screenings are free with museum admission: \$6, \$3 seniors and students with valid ID. The Brooklyn Museum is located at 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. For a festival schedule, call the Brooklyn Arts Council at (718) 625-0080 or visit the Web site at [www.brooklynartscouncil.org](http://www.brooklynartscouncil.org). — Lisa J. Curtis

## FASHION

### Too sexy

Former Mayor David Dinkins will be one of the models strutting down the catwalk at the Brooklyn Museum on May 13 for "Fashion on Fulton & Friends," a benefit for Brooklyn Community Housing & Services.

Among the boutiques whose clothing and accessories will be featured are Nigerian Fashions and Fabrics, Tribal Truths Collection, Gibrán Brown Designs, Kimen Design Group, Akini Couture Collection, Michelle New York, Roger Gary Designs, Tres Elegante NY (pictured at right), Garege, Ouvre, La Porte, Moshood Creations, Has by Piazza, Raif Atelier, Courtney Washington Fashion Studio and Harriet's Alter Ego.

Founded in 1978, Brooklyn Community Housing and Services offers housing and support services to people with mental illness and to formerly homeless shelter residents. The benefit fashion show — with reception and silent auction — begins at 6 pm at the Brooklyn Museum's Beaux-Arts Court, 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue. Tickets are \$75, \$150 and \$250. For more information call (718) 625-4545 ext. 130 or visit the Brooklyn Community Housing and Services Web site at [www.bchands.org](http://www.bchands.org). — Lisa J. Curtis

## MUSIC

### Country time

The Kings County Opry returns to Freddy's Bar and Backroom on May 13 with The Chelsea Train Gang at 9 pm and Lousy Cowboy Music at 10 pm.

The old-time country music program will kick off at 8 pm with a song circle featuring Alex Battles from The Whisky Rebellion; Dock Oscar, founding member of Sweet William; Pablo Conrad; and Aaron T. Ryan. Lousy Cowboy Music's CD has hints of "new-grass," jazz, Western, folk, Irish and old-time sounds. The Chelsea Train Gang (Gang's Alan Friend is pictured) specializes in songs from the Southern Appalachians and contra dance tunes.

No cover. Freddy's Bar and Backroom is located at 485 Dean St. at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights. For more information about The Kings County Opry series, every third Thursday at Freddy's, visit [www.kingscountyopry.com](http://www.kingscountyopry.com) or call (718) 622-7035. — Lisa J. Curtis

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# BROOKLYN Eats

Neighborhood Dining Guide

## This week: BOERUM HILL

### Bacchus

409 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 852-1572  
(AmEx) Entrees: \$8-\$18.  
Heavy truck traffic may trouble by Bacchus, but that doesn't dampen the lounge atmosphere inside this cozy French wine bar and bistro. Boerum Hill, operated by co-owners Redha Boutaghou and Bruno Lucido. The dining room is quiet and the tree-lined back patio is romantic. The lunch menu is standard French fare, with omelets, quiches and croque monsieur. The French version of the ham and cheese sandwich, and steak au poivre, grilled tuna, lamb, pork tenderloin, rabbit, duck, cod or veal, mussels and more for dinner. Young wines dominate the cellar. Bacchus is served Saturdays and Sundays. Open daily.

### Bar Tabac

128 Smith St. at Dean Street, (718) 923-0918  
(AmEx) Entrees: \$10.95-\$17.50

Look for the vertical maroon-and-white sign of a motorcycle to find this French bistro offering a spacious dining room and bar area (big enough for a football table by the entrance). Brothers Georges and Jacques Fournier opened Bar Tabac with a diner menu featuring lamb stew, tuna steak, fettuccine carbonara and herb chicken au jus with mashed potatoes. Top it off with one of their "diet boosters": creme brulee or four-less chocolate cake.

Open into the early morning hours, Bar Tabac is a haven for late-night nocturnal. They're also open for lunch and brunch (Saturdays and Sundays), 11 am to 4 pm with a drink menu of refreshing tonics like the Monaco (grenadine, Sprite and beer) or Tango (grenadine and lemon). Enjoy live music on the bar as well as on Monday nights. Open daily.

### Bedouin Tent

405 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, (718) 852-5555  
(Cash only) Entrees: \$3-\$12

Despite its name change, this family-owned restaurant has made Atlantic Avenue its home for the past 13 years. (Before Bedouin Tent, the Doria family ran their eatery as "Moustache.") Winner of Borough Hall's 2001 "Mom and Pop Business of the Year Award," Bedouin Tent is known far and wide for their appetizing food and friendly prices.

Signature dishes include lamb loin, a Middle Eastern lamb pizza, and the bistro, a Moroccan stew. For dessert, there's the basbousa — semolina cake served with yogurt and honey. Garden seats available. Open daily for lunch and dinner.

### Brawta Caribbean Cafe

347 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, (718) 855-5515,  
www.brawta.com in Park Slope at 447

Seventh Ave. at 15th Street, (718) 788-6666  
(AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9.50-\$22.  
This small Caribbean restaurant offers flavorful dishes in huge portions. The spicy curried coconut shrimp or the newest additions to the menu, jerk tofu and tofu ribs. Brawta is BYOB, but don't forget about their fresh-squeezed juices like homemade fruit punch or pineapple, a sweet combination of ginger and pineapple. For dessert, try Brawta's mango and pineapple cheesecake. Outdoor seating is available in the summer. The Park Slope outpost is takeout and delivery only. Open daily.

### Cafe Kai

151 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 596-3466  
(DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$3.95-\$8

This organic, vegetarian juice bar was opened by Lisa DeLeon in July 2002. The cafe now offers a selection of hot dishes, in addition to its sandwiches and salads. The cafe has several tables where you can hunker down with a cup of fine coffee or herbal or hot tea. Stock up on their soups (including potato leek and butternut squash with ginger and green onion) and their bread and muffins. Add a couple of additional additions to breakfast when hovering overnight guests. Signature sandwich: marinated tofu with fresh pesto and roasted veggies. Check for daily entree specials. Brunch is served on Saturdays and Sundays. Open daily.

### Cody's Ale House Grill

154 Court St. at Pacific Street, (718) 852-6115  
(AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6.50-\$16.95

Since 1989, owner Kevin Cody has been serving up

★ = Full review available at

Brooklyn Papers.com

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Visa= Visa Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

Cold antipasto salad at La Rosa and Sons pizzeria.

burgers, pasta, steaks, baked clams and other tasty Americana at his very own bar and grill. The cozy, no-frills eatery looks like it supports a steady diet of regular customers, but let's not forget the sports fans that pack into Cody's daily. With baseball season in full swing, Cody's television, equipped with DirecTV, are all set to broadcast every Yankees and Mets game, as well as out of town games, for baseball lovers throughout the area. Open daily.

### La Rosa and Sons

98 Smith St. at Pacific Street, (718) 935-0545  
(Cash only) Entrees: \$8.75-\$10.50. Large cheese pizza: \$12.50. ★

The latest addition to the always popular Jim Mamary-Alan Harding owned-and-operated restaurants (Patino, Schnack), La Rosa and Sons is the local pizza joint where you can sit down and enjoy a bottle of wine just as easily as you can grab a slice to go. It's a back-to-back with the parent Pacific Street-fronting Pacifico and they share Pacifico's bar, so margaritas and beer can be enjoyed with meals as well as wine. In addition to sandwiches, calzones and pizza, the restaurant offers sumptuous fare like baked rigatoni with escarole and white beans in a veal ragu. Right now, all cheese slices are \$2. Open daily.

### Pacifico

269 Pacific St. at Smith Street, (718) 935-9090  
(Cash only) Entrees: \$5-\$13

Pacifico goes authentic Mexican food with a hip, yet reverential attitude. Operated by Jim Mamary and Alan Harding, Pacifico's inventive menu offers a charred shrimp and tortilla stack with corn mango salsa, steamed mussels with beer and serrano chiles and pulled beef tacos with olive sauce. The interior should be at — between the wood floors, roaring fireplace (in winter), velvet candles and walls covered by Mexican tiles, Pacifico could be a proper hacienda if it only had burros tethered outside. Dinner served nightly. Open for lunch Friday through Sunday.

### Pier 116

116 Smith St. at Pacific Street, (718) 260-8900  
(MC, Visa) Entrees: \$9-\$18

In the spirit of great dates, Pier 116 has decided to make every week restaurant week at its establishment. For \$20.04, enjoy a prix fixe meal prepared by chef Hector Vazquez at this traditional New England-style clam shack. According to manager Jennifer Bolter, Vazquez makes the "Best New England clam chowder in Brooklyn," while bartenders pour mostly import lagers and ales, both bottled and draft. Or try the lobster rolls, clam rolls or calamari. There's veal, end brunch as well, featuring lobster and eggs with hollandaise. Closed Mondays.

### Restaurant Saul

140 Smith St. at Bergen Street, (718) 925-9844  
(AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$20-\$30. ★

Named after its chef, Saul Bolton, this restaurant's creative menu features tempting appetizers such as seared fresh French sardines and bacon and onion tarts. Entrees include pork tenderloin and belly served with romesco aioli and roasted chicken paired with mushroom risotto and boudin blanc (French white sausage). Desserts include a warm pineapple brown Betty with coconut ice cream and bitters vanilla dark rum caramel. Dinner served daily. Open daily.

### Soul Spot

302 Atlantic Ave. at Hoyt Street, www.soulspot.com  
(718) 596-9933 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$4.95-\$12.95

Barium, Tanya and Chef Vicky Cesay opened this Boerum Hill, Caribbean-influenced Southern-style soul food spot last June. Cesay, who says he spent five years at Soul Fines in Manhattan, gives a long list of signature dishes which includes meatloaf, banana beef ribs, fried chicken, chicken and dumplings, baked salmon, macaroni and cheese, collard greens, candied yams and peach cobbler. As the menu says, "Makes you never wanna cook at home." Open daily at 6:30 am for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

# New chef for BAM

## Great Performances creates eclectic, affordable menu

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

While the Brooklyn Academy of Music has had its own cafe inside its second floor Leperet Space for some time, the food had previously not risen above the plastic-wrapped sandwiches and brownies found at other theaters' intermission bars where the focus was, not incorrectly, on the performances rather than the visuals.

Now BAM is offering another option for ticket-holders in search of a great meal before a show. Great Performances, a full-service catering and event-planning company based in Manhattan, has been selected as the exclusive caterers for the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the goal of making the food available inside BAM as arresting as its urban-chic decor.

The change is in keeping with developments in the area around BAM, which has blossomed into a foodie destination, a relief to those who wanted to enjoy a dinner or cocktail with friends before curtain time. Directly across the street from BAM's entrance is chef-owner Thomas Fietisch's Viennese bistro Thomas Beisl, while just a stone's throw away are chef-owner Ian Grant's worldly Restaurant Guy, chef Secundo Mendoza's French-American Café Lafayette and owner Fabrizio Di Miti's Italian eatery Scoppio among others.

Of course, Great Performances has obstacles that the restaurants surrounding BAM don't have. While cooking up a storm, the staff must be aware of the fact that they're in a performing arts institution. Anything that disrupts a performance, like dropping a dish or missing a certain time, would have dramatic repercussions, to say the least.

And the menu should be eclectic

enough to please the very different crowds attracted, for example, to the Wong Kar Wai film series now at BAMcinematek, as well as the jazz, spoken word, rock, pop and world beat live music performers on Friday and Saturday nights at the BAMcave, or the Tony Kushner play "Heredity Kabul," now on stage in the Opera House.

Celebrating its 25th year, Great Performances is no stranger to the unusual restrictions of dishing out entrees in performing arts institutions. Recently the company was selected as jazz at Lincoln Center's exclusive caterer for the Fredrick P. Rose Hall as well

as the planned Dizzy's Coca Cola club, that will be open 365 days a year.

Great Performances also regularly caters Brooklyn's most fabulous galas with clients ranging from the Brooklyn Hospital Center — remember dancing in Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park or in the outfield of Kipsbay Park in Coney



Food pairing: New partners, BAM General Manager Alice Bernstein and Great Performances CEO Liz Neumark, at the BAMcave in the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Island? — as well as celebrity-studded affairs, like the nuptials of former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Judith Nathan. And CEO Liz Neumark says culture mavens can expect a lot more from BAMcave now that she's waving the baton, including more signature dishes, such as chef Carlos Gomez's "BAM chowder" and his scrumptious dessert, "Breakfast Bread Pudding" [see dessert below], that doesn't contain any bread at all — just pastries.

"Our clients are no less demanding than those in a traditional restaurant. They are always in the best restaurants," said Neumark. "But while catering is a series of one-night stands, here at BAM, this is a serious relationship. Consistency is the biggest challenge."

At BAMcave, the diners currently clamor for the wasn't punko fried shrimp

with spicy aioli appetizer and the traditional southern fried chicken with garlic smashed new potatoes and mustard greens or the Srachuan peppercorn-crusted ahi tuna with ginger-honey risotto. But Gomez also offers lighter fare like the lobster club sandwich stuffed with large chunks of moist, fresh lobster meat, or a Caribbean Caesar salad with flavor-packed plantain croutons.

"It's more than food. It's hospitality, the service, the experience and how it makes you feel," she says.

The challenge for Neumark's staff at the BAMcave is for the restaurant to expand its reach beyond performance nights, because on those nights, every table is full and reservations are available only to BAM members. Getting the word out about the inspired chef working the stove at the cafe and his multicultural menu is the first step.

"Our affordable menu is competitive with the neighborhood. It reflects who BAM is — be inclusive."

It's also discriminating, because Neumark is serious about fresh ingredients. "I'm passionate about local Hudson Valley food. We have relationships with local farmers. We attended a garlic festival and it was unbelievable. I went on about the garlic for five months. The stuff thought I had lost it," said an unrepentant, beaming Neumark. "That what's nice about being a small company. We can focus on quality — not just purveyors with best price."

Neumark's relationships with her clients are just as important as those with her suppliers.

"For us, it's about relationships," said Neumark. "We want [BAM] to be successful. It's a recipe, not a formula."

## Breakfast Bread Pudding

by Chef Carlos Gomez of BAMcave

- 4 assorted muffins
- 4 assorted Danishes
- 4 assorted croissants
- 4 assorted doughnuts
- 10 eggs
- 2 quarts milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 ounces sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon

### Method:

Cut all the pastries in quarters and place them in a 10-inch by 10-

inch, 2-inch deep pan. Before you place the pastries in the pan, line the pan with a bakery pan liner. After that, mix the eggs, milk, vanilla, sugar and cinnamon together and pour over the pastries. Let it soak for five minutes, wrap the pan with aluminum foil and bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until middle is firm. Then cool down and serve with any other desired sauce and ice cream combination.

Serves 8

## Simple pleasures

Sometimes all I want is a burger.

Or a nice grilled piece of salmon on mashed potatoes (left). Nothing with Asian influences, or French, or a novel take on Austrian cooking.

With bistros in the area proliferating like bunnies on Easter Sunday, simple American cooking can be hard to find. In June, partners Scott Fredrick and Andrew Benedict opened City Lighting Restaurant & Bar in that funky triangular space on Flatbush Avenue that you've driven past 10,000 times that was once a lighting store. (See the connection? Lighting store — City Lighting?)

It's now an attractive dining room with a 30-foot bar and retro lighting

circa 1960-70.

But never mind that. City Lighting has crab cakes and grilled fish, good burgers and salads. If you're hankering for a steak, or a big bowl of garlicky mussels, or simple pasta, they've got those, too.

There's even strawberry shortcake. It's spring. Treat yourself to a slice.

City Lighting Restaurant & Bar (307 Flatbush Ave., at Prospect Place in Prospect Heights) accepts Visa and MasterCard. Entrees: \$9-\$16. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. Brunch is served 11 am-4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. For information, call (718) 230-3321.

— Tina Barry

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# Mother's day

Actress Linda Emond tackles runaway-mom role in Kushner play

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Actress Linda Emond, who won an Obie Award, a Lucille Lortel Award and a Drama Desk nomination for her performance in the original production of Tony Kushner's "Homebody/Kabul," says she's "absolutely thrilled" to be re-staging the play at the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

Since its premiere at the New York Theatre Workshop in December 2001, "Homebody/Kabul" has been produced in London and various venues across this country, a trajectory that culminated in a Los Angeles production last fall. It will be onstage at BAM May 11 through May 30.

Emond, who will reprise her role in Brooklyn, is thrilled for two reasons. Firstly, the play will be seen by an even wider audience. And secondly, "Homebody/Kabul" premiered shortly after 9-11, and audiences saw the play in the context of that terrible tragedy, although it had been written previously.

"I felt that the play that I knew in all its complexity — some of that was lost because of

when it was seen," Emond tells GO Brooklyn. "I'm happy people will have the chance to see it with distance."

She plays the "Homebody," a British wife and mother who becomes fascinated with Afghanistan after discovering Nancy Hutch Dupree's out-of-date "A Historical Guide to the City of Kabul." When she flees her loveless marriage and disappears in Kabul, her husband (Reed Birney) and daughter (played by Maggie Gyllenhaal

in March 1999.

"It was just a one-act at that time," she explains. "Tony decided he wanted to develop it into a full-length play. I did several readings along the way." One of those readings took place in Park Slope at Congregation Kolot Chayim in the spring of 2001.

It was a different world then. "At the time of the first rehearsal, Kabul was foreign. People didn't know it was a city or how to spell it," Emond recalls. "[Right after 9-11] I knew more about Afghanistan than CNN. They had to catch up."

The latest rendition of the play was developed at the Step-by-Step Theatre, in Chicago, and Los Angeles' Center Theatre Group. As she returns to the role, Emond faces major changes in the last third of her opening monologue.

Despite her ample experience in film, television and live theater, Emond found this text on a level of difficulty comparable to a play by Shakespeare or Brecht.

"It's a particularly large and complex piece. The dilemmas involved in it are all the more confounding," she says.

The play is complex in several ways. First, there's the language. "The Dying Gaul," written by Craig Lucas, a friend of Kushner, says she first saw the script



Destination 'Kabul': In Tony Kushner's play "Homebody/Kabul," actress Linda Emond plays the role of a British wife and mother who becomes fascinated with Afghanistan and flees there.

out of someone's mouth," says Emond. "I've had four years with it. It took me a long time to find the verb in the sentences."

Then there's the technical challenges. "There's a 53-minute monologue. The level of focus required as a sole person is extremely difficult."

And finally, there's the emotional and psychological demands.

"It asks me as an artist to dig down deep and use everything I've learned."

Emond has been seen on television in such New York-based series as "Law & Order" and the "Sopranos," as well as

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## Fear factor

Cellist Edward Arron selects tough works for Bargemusic

By Kevin Filippski  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Of all the difficulties facing musicians who live in New York, losing rehearsal time to the search for a parking space is among the toughest to swallow — at least for cellist Edward Arron.

"I usually schedule my rehearsals around alternate-side parking," Arron, who plays Bargemusic at Fulton Landing this weekend, said with a laugh as — you guessed it — he sat in his vehicle on Manhattan's Upper West Side, waiting for a spot to open up after a recent rehearsal.

The 27-year-old seems to be in this situation more often these days, since he has a busy musicmaking career. On May 8 and May 9, Arron will perform with pianist Bernard Rose. The program of music that spans more than 200 years was chosen by Arron himself.

"It's music from the cello repertoire that I find special to hear and play," Arron explains. "My favorite cello piece is the Schubert 'Arpeggio' Sonata, and I built

the recital around that. It's so lyrical, beautiful and soulful. I grew up loving that piece."

Understandably, Arron wanted to perform music that highlights the range of the cello rather than the piano.

"This program is a cello-difficult and a tough program in a way," he says. "It's usually the opposite, because if you take things like the Beethoven and Brahms sonatas, they have many more notes for the piano than for the cello. So we're turning the tables, since the piano is such a backbone in this repertoire."

When Arron says "cello-difficult," he means it. In addition to Schubert's sonata, which closes the program, the first half consists of two masterful works by 18th-century composer Luigi Boccherini and late-20th-century master György Ligeti, a folk-inflected work by Bernard Schumann precedes the Schubert finale.

"I decided to start with this really interesting Boccherini's sonata," Arron says. "He was a great virtuoso, and his music reflects that — it's difficult but



Edward Arron

joyful, with beautiful textures and a special energy.

"I thought I would confine this virtuoso theme and program the Ligeti solo sonata, which is as difficult as anything else technically. It has a lot of Hungarian folk elements in it, which is also why I put the Schumann piece 'Five Pieces in Folk Style' on the program, because he picks up on folk elements similar to Ligeti over a hundred years earlier."

Ligeti's solo sonata is an imposing edifice for any serious cellist, even if it clocks in at only 10 minutes.

"It's my first time performing this piece, which will make it a nerve-wracking experience," says Arron. "I fell in love with it the first time I heard it, but I never had the guts to play it before now."

"You have to discipline yourself when you do a solo piece, since you don't have any rehearsals scheduled with someone else," he says. "You know you should be practicing it whenever you have a moment at home. I do clinical work on it, go really slowly and make mental connections of where my fingers and bow

should be. And I also like to whip through it sometimes just to get a feel for it. When I perform it, I hope these two extremes come together, along with the adrenaline, the nerves, the excitement and atmosphere."

The Ligeti sonata is the only solo work on the program.

"He's one of my best friends," Arron says about Rose, his piano-playing partner. "We've known each other about 10 years, and we live three blocks from each other, so we get together on an almost daily basis to make music or talk about music. It's nice to have someone that close onstage with me while playing such difficult music."

Arron, who grew up in Cincinnati and attended Juilliard, comes from a musical family: his father is a violist in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, and his late mother, Judith, was credited with turning around Carnegie Hall's fortunes during the 1990s when she served as its executive director.

"Growing up I was exposed to extraordinary musicmaking, at home and at Carnegie Hall," the cellist explains.

Although his busy career includes performing on classical radio station WQXR's "On Air" program and an upcoming U.S. tour, Arron insists that there's no place like Bargemusic.

"It's such an incredible place to play and listen to music," he says. "It's completely unique, just floating on the water, with the waves. It's amazing that for 25 years [Bargemusic Founder and President] Olga Bloom has poured blood, sweat and tears to give us an opportunity to play music the way we want to make it."

"There's something so simple about it — just a stage and chairs — then you add in the beauty of the great Manhattan skyline and the music that we get to play. It's so special."

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By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**D**anspace Project and BRIC Studio will present the second installment of "Out of Space" at BRIC Studio on May 14 and May 15. The series is curated by Marya Wethers, who works out of the Danspace headquarters in Manhattan's St. Mark's Church, and features innovative work performed by a number of emerging female dancers and choreographers. "I wanted to give emerging choreographers the opportunity to be seen in smaller settings and promote independent modern dance," Wethers told GO Brooklyn. "Women of color was definitely something that was important to me, and queer artists as well."

Ron Brown/EVIDENCE dancer Shani Collins will perform her solo work, "But Some of Us Are Brave," set to the Nina Simone song "Images" about "a brown woman who doesn't know her glory," said Collins.

The piece is informed by the concept of rape, both physical and cultural, as well as migration, movement and the raw energy of nature, said Collins. It has also been influenced by the African Yoruba religion in which deities known as "Orishas" are personified aspects of nature and spirit.

(Thus Oshun represents love and sexual energy, and Yemaya is the ocean and one who protects.)

The work was inspired by the documentary video, "Quiet as it's kept," created by her younger sister, Phakiso Collins, and will be accompanied by Bobby Scott singing "Images" live.

Collins, who lives in Flat



**Beach bums:** Yanira Castro will perform her work "Verano," with Nancy Ellis, as part of Danspace's "Out of Space" series at BRIC Studio.

bush, says she's happy to be performing at BRIC because she's "looking forward to seeing what everybody's creating."

Yanira Castro, 32, who formed her own company in

## DANCE

"Out of Space" will be performed at BRIC Studio (57 Rockwell Place, second floor, at Fulton Street in Fort Greene) on May 14 and May 15 at 8 pm. Tickets are \$10. 58 students. For more information, call (718) 855-7882, ext. 53 or visit [www.bricstudio.org](http://www.bricstudio.org).

1997, will perform "Verano," a duet, with company member Nancy Ellis. The piece comes from a larger work performed in 2002 at the old American Can factory in Gowanus at Third Street and Third Avenue.

"The project used the four seasons as an abstract expression of a love affair," said Castro. "Verano represents the

sexual side. It's kind of like being on a beach. It's hot on the beach, but there's also the heat of sexual activity." Both dancers will wear only the bottoms of bathing suits.

Castro has choreographed the dance for two women moving separately but in unison.

"It's like they are each dancing without partners," said Castro.

Although the piece was originally site-specific, Castro believes it can be effective wherever it is performed.

"I make dances that can stand on their own, although the site enhances the pieces," she said.

Site-specific work "can be quite difficult in Manhattan," said Castro, which "is one of the reasons she welcomes the opportunity of working in Brooklyn. Her company is currently creating a site-specific project, "Beacon," which

will premiere in January 2005 at the Brooklyn Lyceum.

"Brooklyn is where people are experimenting — going out and being bolder," said Castro. "It's a slightly younger crowd."

Zoe Klein, a dancer, acrobat and lighting designer (she is a technical director at both Brooklyn Arts Exchange and Danspace Project), will perform "Desire Is Illegal," a sensuous dance journey that takes a personal look at coping with loss. The piece, which incorporates vocals by Saria Young and music by Nightmares on Wax, uses movement, text and a heaping bin of chocolate kisses to demonstrate how memory is distorted into fantasy and pleasure is punished.

Nitaja Richards, aka Diva, is a breakdance artist who has choreographed for various hip-hop groups in the tri-state area. She describes her style as modern funk, a fusion of house, hip-hop, modern and street funk. She will perform "Bboybitchdiva.com," her personal exploration of a young black woman's journey within minority communities and society at large. The piece is accompanied by a soundscape of club music and original text she has written and recorded.

Sarah Van't Hull's "Caught," performed around a stool, is about contained tension and emotionally based movement expressed through the torso.

Wethers is particularly pleased to be back at BRIC.

"The setup of the space is interesting and enjoyable — cabaret-style and casual," she said. "In standard theaters the audience is restricted to seats. Here people can get up and buy a glass of wine or beer at the concession during the show. I really like that kind of setup."

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# Where to go

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

## SAT, MAY 8

### PERFORMANCE

**DANCE PARTY:** Art Lillard and Blue Heaven perform. Set includes swing, standards, jazz and more. \$5. 8 pm to 9 pm. Event is part of "May Days and Nights," a weeklong promotional event on Atlantic Avenue between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue. Belairian Church, 401 Atlantic Ave. (718) 852-2437.

**BARGE MUSIC:** a chamber music concert of Boccherini, Ligeti, Schumann and Schubert. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**HIGHLY PLAYERS:** the musical "Folies." \$15, \$12 seniors and children. 8 pm. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2732.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Merely We Roll Along." \$15, \$12 children 12 and under and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

**BAX DANCE:** Thread Dance Theater presents "Brooklyn Dance Sampler," a showcase of 14 Brooklyn-based companies, schools and choreographers at BRIC Studio. \$12. 8 pm. 57 Rockwell Place. (718) 632-6276.

**PLAY:** Kingsborough Community College presents the murderous comedy "American and Old Lace." Multi-ethnic and multi-generational cast. \$10. 8 pm. End of Oriental Boulevard. (718) 368-5666.

**PAPER MOON PLAYERS:** presents "The Lion in Winter." \$9, \$8 seniors. 8 pm. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 263 E. 24th St. (718) 659-1482.

**THEATER:** Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Ghosts, Giants and Gales: Three Oscar Wilde Stories." \$15, \$10 students. 8 pm. 475 Third Ave. (212) 502-0796.

**DANCE:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents "Living in the Light," a multimedia theater piece. \$15, \$10 members. \$8 low-income. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

**SCHOOL PLAY:** New Utrecht High School Theater Guild presents "Grease." \$8, \$6 seniors, \$5 children 10 and under. 8 pm. 1401 80th St. (718) 232-2500. ext. 585.

**CIRCUS-OPERA:** The Hoffman Circus, an adaptation of Offenbach's "Tales of Hoffmann" featuring opera singers, acrobats and physical theater. \$12 plus 2-drink minimum. 8 pm. Underwater Theater, 66 Water St. (212) 988-4444.

**NARROWS THEATER:** Musical theater "The Pajama Game." 8 pm. Narrows Community Theater, Fort Hamilton High School, 8301 Shore Road. Call for ticket info. (718) 482-3173.

**UP OVER JAZZ:** vocalist Grady Tate and his trio. \$20 plus \$10 minimum. 9 pm, 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Camera plays 60s pop. 9:30 pm. Other groups. No cover. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**BROOKLYN UCELM:** "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online ([www.govanon.com](http://www.govanon.com)) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die. 11:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7234.

## CHILDREN

**SOCCER CLINIC:** Boys and girls ages

5 to 15 are invited to play. 10 am to noon. Prospect Park. Enter at Second Street entrance and Prospect Park West. Follow signs for Camp Olympia. Call to register. (718) 748-7084. Free.

**SPRING CARNIVAL:** Families. First features games, entertainment and fun. 10 am to early afternoon. 250 Baltic St. Call. (718) 237-1562.

**PROSPECT PARK ZOO:** Bird watching weekend. "Migration Sensation" activities feature games, arts and crafts, bird watching, and more. \$5. \$12 seniors. \$1 kids 3 to 12 years. 11 am to 6 pm. 450 Flatbush Ave. (718) 399-7339.

**AUDITION:** School of American Ballet holds an audition for boys and girls ages 8 to 10. 11:30 am. Berkeley Carroll School, 181 Lenox Place. (212) 769-6600.

**SONGS AND STORIES:** Kids are invited to "Animal Crackers in My Alphabet Soup," where ABCs and animals come to life. 11:30 am. Gumbo, 493 Atlantic Ave. (718) 855-7808.

**FAMILY FUN SERIES:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents a pre-historic performance by puppeteer Jim West. \$15. 2 pm. Wall Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4600.

**BROOKLYN AUTHORS:** Brooklyn Historical Society presents children's book illustrator Javaka Steptoe. He reads from his book "In Daddy's Arms I Am Tall." 2 pm. \$20. \$6 adults, \$4 students and seniors. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 232-4111.

**SALES AND FAIRS**

**OUTDOOR FAIR:** Brooklyn Technical High School hosts a fair. Health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose, as well as information on women's health. Also, hidden treasures at bargain prices. 11 am to 4 pm. Fort Greene Park, between DeKalb Avenue and Fulton Street. (347) 565-5422.

**OUTDOOR MARKET:** at Flatbush Reform Church. 10 am to 4 pm. Flatbush and Church avenues. (718) 941-8988.

**PLANT SALE:** Benefits sale for Cripple Hill Playgroup. 10 am to 4 pm. PS 58, Carroll Street, between Court and 3rd streets. [www.cripplehillplaygroup.com/fundraising/plantale.html](http://www.cripplehillplaygroup.com/fundraising/plantale.html)

**SALE:** PS 282 late sale. 10 am to 4 pm. Sixth Avenue between Lincoln and Berkeley Plazas. (212) 488-0009 (Kathy).

**FLEX MARKET:** at Sunset Park Community Church. 10 am to 3 pm. Sunset Park Community Church, 5324 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-6944.

**CRAYT FAIR:** Park Slope United Methodist Church hosts a silent art auction featuring works by local artists. 11 am to 4 pm. Camp Friendship, 339 Eighth St. (718) 768-3093.

**PIER SHOW:** Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition hosts opening of this year's art show featuring 1,000 works of art by over 300 emerging artists. Live music by Lovebottom. Noon to 4 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

**SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE:** Park Slope Jewish Center hosts a talk with Bio-Ethical Rabbi Aaron Mackler, Ph.D. Milder speaks on topic: "Autism,

Justice and Access to Healthcare." 10 am. Eighth Avenue and 14th Street. (718) 768-1433. Free.

**LECTURE:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture offers a talk "Non-Violent Solutions for the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict." 10 am to 1:30 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972. Free.

**BROOKLYN ARTS COUNCIL:** Films and videos by Brooklyn-based artists. Held in conjunction with exhibit "Open House: Working in Brooklyn." Included in admission charge of \$6. Noon to 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum, Cantor Auditorium, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 625-0300.

**READINGS:** The Rotunda Gallery hosts an evening of readings and performance. 7 pm. 31 Clinton St. Reentry and necessary. (718) 875-4047. ext. 11. Free.

**DINNER:** Brooklyn Club of National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs hosts its 37th annual Founder's Day celebration. \$70 includes dinner and dancing. NY Marriott Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 763-8678.

## Sun, May 9

**Mother's Day**

**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**

**BEST-STOP ADVENTURE:** Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of two colonial villages: Bedford and Stuyvesant Heights. Explore tree-lined blocks, learn about elegant brownstones, visit Fulton Street's multicultural shopping. \$11. \$9 members. \$8 seniors and students. 11 am to 1 pm. Meet at the statue in the middle of Fulton Park, where Atlantic intersects Utica Avenue. (718) 788-8500. ext. 208.

**BROOKLYN STROLL:** Meet the women responsible for the completion of the bridge, Emily Rodden, as played by a first-person interpreter. Perfect for families with children. \$6, \$4 students and seniors. 2 pm. Meet at Brooklyn Historical Society, 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 232-4111.

**MAY DAYS:** Sales, tastings and live music on Atlantic Avenue between Hicks Street and Fourth Avenue. [www.atlantica.org](http://www.atlantica.org) or (718) 878-8993.

**PERFORMANCE**

**CHAMBER MUSIC:** St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs the program "Baroque Tales." \$25. \$18 Brooklyn Museum members. \$18 students and seniors. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum, Cantor Auditorium, 200 Eastern Parkway. (212) 594-6100.

**BARGE MUSIC:** presents a chamber music concert of Boccherini, Ligeti, Schumann and Schubert. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**CONCERT:** Great Music at Plymouth concert series presents The Grace Church Society. \$15, \$10 seniors and students. 3 pm. Plymouth Church, Orange Street between Hicks and Henry streets. (718) 403-9546.

**MOTHER'S DAY MUSIC:** St. Jacob's Lutheran Church hosts a concert. Program includes music by Haydn, Bach and Beethoven. 4 pm. 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Sidecar plays electronic impro. 9:30 pm. Other groups. No cover. 485 Dean St. (718)

Hall. Assembly at Cuyler Gore Park (Greenwich Avenue at Fulton Street) at 2 pm. Call (518) 455-3451 or (718) 643-6140 for more information.

**FILM FEST:** Oculus at Galapagos Art Space presents 20 very short film and video selections. 7 pm to 9 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 625-0850. Free.

## Mon, May 10

**JEWISH LEARNING:** David Berg Lecture Series offers a course on the Holocaust. 6 pm to 7 pm. Congregation B'nai Avraham, 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** Burlesque. 9:30 pm to 1 am. No cover charge. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

## Tues, May 11

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Bay Ridge Toyota, Lutheran Medical Center hosts the drive. 10 am to 4 pm. Call. (718) 630-9000.

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library, Midwood branch, presents a Jewish heritage series. Today: Joseph Teitelbaum, author of "The Shooting Gallery." 1:30 pm. 975 East 14th St. (718) 252-0967. Free.

**MEETING:** AARP Bay Ridge meets. 2:30 pm. Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 748-9114.

**PRATT:** Opening reception for "Senior Fine Arts." 4 pm to 6 pm. Rubelle and Norman Schiller Gallery, 200 Wiloughby Ave. (718) 636-3517. Free.

**DINNER DANCE:** Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults hosts a b'nai dinner and dinner show. \$7 includes dinner and entertainment. 5 pm to 9 pm. 6935 Fourth Ave. (718) 748-0650.

**AUTHOR TALK:** Brooklyn Public Library, Business branch, presents Joseph Volker. The Making of a Financial Legend." 6 pm to 8 pm. Advance registration necessary. 280 Cadman Plaza West. (718) 623-7000. Free.

**HOMEBODY WORKSHOP:** Post Area Community Council offers a talk for first time buyers. "Your Credit, Your Home, Your Future." 6:30 pm. Ft. Greene Senior Citizens Club, 966 Fulton St. (718) 783-3549. ext. 19. Free.

**SYMPOSIUM:** Brooklyn Historical Society presents "The Changing Role of Women in the Service Economy." Included in admission: \$6, \$4 seniors and students. 7 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Homebody Kabu," by Tony Kushner. Play revolves around replications of a British housewife's infatuation with Afghanistan. \$25-\$65. 7:30 pm. Performance runs 3.5 hours. Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-1000.

**SIDE LECTURE:** Brownstone Revival Coalition hosts a talk and slide show with Everett Ortner. "Old New York and the Brownstone Age." 7:30 pm. Prospect Park YMCA, 337 Ninth St. (718) 852-6770. Free.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** Several rock groups play. 7:30 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

**MEETING:** of First Place and Summit Street Tri-Block Association. Bring your questions about social security changes to Medicare and the Prescription Drug Bill. 7:30 pm. 106 Prospect Park Place. (718) 858-4699.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** REV-99 presents a big screen projection and audio performance of live, impro-

vised television. 7 pm to 11 pm. No cover. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**BARBES BAR:** Violinist Jerry Scheinman plays. 9 pm. No cover. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**WEBS, MAY 12**

**ORGAN CONCERT:** Gregory Eaton plays the longstanding Summer organ at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church. 1:10 pm. 157 Montague St. (718) 788-7312.

**MEETING:** Bay Ridge AARP Meeting. 2 pm. Our Lady of Angels, 337 74th St. (718) 788-7312.

**MEETING:** General Board meeting of Community Board 6. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Joralemon St. (718) 643-3027.

**MEDITATION:** Workshop for sahaja yoga. 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. Brooklyn Public Library, Carroll Gardens branch, 394 Clinton St. (718) 833-5751. Free.

**BARBES BAR:** David Wheeler of Pinballhead plays. 7 pm. No cover. 316 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**ETHICS WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a talk, "Communication and Identity." Learn how to identify and use both the positive and negative differences in our cultural outlooks to resolve conflict. 7 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 788-2772. Free.

**CAFE 111:** presents music with Laura Thomas, Chris Brown and Kate Fennell. Other. No cover. 8 pm. 111 Court St. (718) 658-2808.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** East of Autumn plays modern rock. 9:30 pm. No cover. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**BAM:** "Homebody Kabu," by Tony Kushner. 7:30 pm. See Tues, May 11.

**THURS, MAY 13**

**MADE IN BROOKLYN:** Con Ed Power Breakfast offers a panel discussion on the specialty and health food industry. Learn how to market ethnic foods, marketing to bring products to the shelf and getting established. 8:30 am to 10 am. Breakfast at 8 am. Brooklyn Public Library, Business branch, 380 Cadman Plaza West. Registration required. (718) 623-7000. Free.

**RECEPTION:** St. Francis College hosts a reception for exhibit "Form and Meaning: An Exhibition of Brooklyn Artists." 2 pm to 7 pm. 180 Remsen St. (718) 489-5272. Free.

**FASHION MEETS HOUSING:** 16 Brooklyn designers participate in a fashion show benefiting Brooklyn Community Housing and Services. 5:25 and 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 625-4545. ext. 130.

**LIBRARY EVENT:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents a Jewish heritage series. Neil Baldwin reads from his book "Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of the American Dream." 7:30 pm. Prospect Park YMCA, 337 Ninth St. (718) 852-6770. Free.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Brooklyn writer and critic Andrew Lewis Conn reads

from his novel "P" 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music concert of Brahms, Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BARBES BAR:** Matt Pavlovsk. 9 pm. No cover. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Kappa County Opry plays bluegrass. 9:30 pm. No cover. 485 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**BROOKLYN UCELM:** "Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind" (30 plays in 60 minutes). \$15 online ([www.govanon.com](http://www.govanon.com)) or \$9 plus the roll of a single six-sided die. 11:30 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 670-7234.

**BAM:** "Homebody Kabu," by Tony Kushner. 7:30 pm. See Tues, May 11.

**Fri, May 14**

**CONCERT:** Pianist/composer Roberto Plaut performs. Noon and 7:10 pm. MetroTech Commons, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 488-8200. Free.

**BACINEMATEK:** Films of Wong Kar Wai series. Today: "Happy Together" (1997). \$10. 2 pm, 4:30 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**CONCERT:** Outdoor event at MetroTech Commons. Two sets: noon and 1:10 pm. MetroTech Commons, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 488-8200. Free.

**BEER GARDEN:** Brooklyn Historical Society and Brooklyn Brewery join to offer brewed beer and live music. Included in admission of \$6. \$4 students and seniors. 6:30 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**CARD PARTY:** Inmatecate Heart of Mary School. \$20. 6:30 pm. 3002 Ft. Hamilton Parkway. (718) 438-7373.

**AUCTION:** at Salem Lutheran Church to benefit homeless animals. Viewing at 6:30 pm. sale at 7 pm. 495 67th St. (718) 748-7770.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** The Furnes. \$5. 7:30 pm. Also, Floating Vandeulle with host Van Van Van. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music of Brahms, Schumann, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**FOLK DANCE:** Good Coffeehouse presents Hungarian music from Transylvania. Eftela plays. \$10, \$6 children. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 748-2772.

**FISH AUCTION:** 14th annual marine auction hosted by the Brooklyn Aquarium Society. \$3 donation for non-members. 7:30 pm. New York Aquarium, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 837-4453.

**BARBES BAR:** Howard Fraham Quartet plays folk and jazz. 9 pm. No cover. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

**OFFICE OPS:** Rock n' Rollerz. Skate around the caged bands. \$5 includes skate. 8 pm. 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509.

**FREDDY'S BACKROOM:** Box of

Continued on page 12.



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## Where to GO...

Continued from page 11...

**Crayons** play edge folk music 9:30 p.m. Also, Pocket Monster plays pop. 10:30 p.m. No cover. 665 Dean St. (718) 622-7035.

**GALLERY PLAYERS** "Merly We Roll Along." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**NARROWS THEATRE** "Pharma Game." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**PLAY** "Anemic and Old Lace." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**HEIGHTS PLAYERS** "Follies." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**BAM** "Homebody Kabul," by Tony Kushner. 7:30 p.m. See Tue., May 11.

**SAT, MAY 15**

**OUTDOOR AND TOURS**

**YOU GOTTA HAVE PARK** Annual event in Prospect Park. Ride the carousel, take an electric boat tour, learn about volunteering and membership. www.prospectpark.org. (718) 965-8960.

**ITS MY PARK!** Join the Junior League of Brooklyn and staff of the Old Stone House. Plant a summer flower garden. Bring innepots and towel. 9 am to 3 p.m. Third Street side of the Old Stone House, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (718) 768-3195.

**BIKE TOUR** Brooklyn Greenway Initiative hosts a tour along the route of the future Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway. 10 mile ride at a family pace (under 10 mph). Meet at 9:30 am at foot of Manhattan Avenue near Newtoun Creek. Greenpoint. (718) 522-0193. Free.

**BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK** Day of events featuring planting and learning about this waterfront. 10 am to 2 p.m. Call to sign up. (718) 802-6603. Free.

**PARK SLOPE WALK** Big Onion Tours explores Brooklyn's Gold Coast. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at southwest corner of St. John's Place and Plaza Street West. (212) 439-1090.

**STUDIO STROLL** South of the New York Artists hosts an open studio tour. Visit artists in neighborhoods of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and parts of Bedford-Stuyvesant. Noon to 6 p.m. Call hotline. (718) 789-2545. Also, Jam Feet Dance Live bands at The Five Spot, celebrating five years of SONJA. \$10 cover includes open bar plus glass. 7 pm to midnight. 459 Myrtle Ave. (718) 852-5022.

**BIKE TOUR** Moving for a Better Environment hosts "History, Mystery, Murder and Money" tour. 10 p.m. Meet at Manhattan entrance to Brooklyn Bridge, southwest corner of Old Stone House. (212) 802-6222. Free.

**CONEY ISLAND** Urban Divers hosts a Coney Island Creek Awareness Day. Call to volunteer. (718) 802-9574.

**PERFORMANCE**

**BARNES B&N** The New York City's largest independent bookstore presents a play featuring fiddling music. 7 p.m. See the Wykes play Blue Ridge Mountain music. No cover. 376 Ninth St. (718) 855-9177.

**BARGEMUSIC** presents a chamber music concert at the Barge Office. 7:30 p.m. Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BAM** "Homebody Kabul," by Tony Kushner. 7:30 p.m. See Tue., May 11.

**GALLERY PLAYERS** "Merly We Roll Along." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE** Nurse Kaya and dancers from Parson Dance Co. collaborate to improve the relationship of the island to the mainland. 8 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 852-5188.

**DANCE** BRIC Studio presents the second installment of "Out of Space" featuring Maria Castro, Shari Collins, Zoe Klein and Karen Van't Hof. \$10, \$8 students and seniors. 8 p.m. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882.

**PLAY** "Anemic and Old Lace." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**NARROWS THEATRE** "Pharma Game." 8 p.m. See Sat., May 8.

**SCHOOL PLAY** New Utrecht High School Theatre Guild presents "Grease." \$8, \$6 seniors. 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

**UP OVER JAZZ** presents a Bang Quartet. \$20 plus \$10 minimum. 9 p.m. 11 pm and 12:30 am. 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 998-5413.

**PARLOR JAZZ** Art of the Trio with Droni Mondak and friends. \$20 includes refreshments and beer at 8 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. 119 Vanderbilt Ave. (718) 853-1981.

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**CHILDREN**

**BARNES AND NOBLE** Illustrator Laura Cornell talks about her book written by Sally Cook. "Good Night Moon." 11 am. 109 Court St. (718) 246-4966. Free.

**FAMILY WORKSHOP** Brooklyn Historical Society and the Brooklyn Museum offer a workshop "Building Brooklyn." Families are invited to learn about Brooklyn's architecture including the Brooklyn Bridge. Investigate architectural terms and techniques and then create a 3D model. \$10. \$5 members. 11 am to 2 p.m. Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

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**PER SHOW** Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition presents this year's art show featuring 1,000 works of art by over 200 emerging artists. Noon to 6 pm. Red Hook Pier, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

**BAMCINEMATEK** Kar Vela series presents "Chung King Express." 5:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. and 9 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**BROOKLYN AUTHORS** Brooklyn Historical Society presents Garet Oliver, University of Brooklyn Brewery and author of "The Brewmaster's Table." \$6, \$4 students and seniors. 2 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

**RECEPTION** Exhibition of paintings and drawings by Gregory William Frick. 2 pm to 5 pm. Coney Island Museum, 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 372-5159. Free.

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## Air travel with the kids in tow

**Parent-to-Parent**  
By Betsy Flieger

Q: I need to fly alone with my three boys, ages 4, 7 and 9. I've not flown in awhile and need suggestions since families can no longer help at the gates. —a mother

A: "Assuming the children are well-behaved and mind her I would suggest she first explain to them all what the trip will involve," says reader Emily Mitchell. "If the children are out of control, then she needs to find someone to fly with her as a sheep herder."

"Traveling with your kids is not hard, if you don't make it hard," says a flight attendant for a major airline, who lives in Australia. "As long as the parents know what to expect from the airline and the security staff, things go pretty smoothly."

Do your homework to be informed more about air travel. To avoid surprises with three boys in tow, review airport security and your carrier's procedures before you arrive at the airport, suggests the flight attendant, a stepmother to four children.

Some air travel tips are tried and true: Reserve the bulkhead seats; minimize luggage; carry on your own snacks and water, moist towels and an extra set of clothes for you and the kids just in case; and tuck in new treats along with favorite books and mini-travel guides to keep your kids occupied.

What has become more of a challenge: airport security. Even babies and all of their gear must be screened at security checkpoints.

For possible gate passes for an extra set of hands, check with your travel agent or airline, says Carla LeNoir, a customer service agent for Delta Airlines.

"Most airlines will allow assistance to escort or meet families with small children and only one parent traveling," says LeNoir. "A friend or family member could assist her to the gate and at her destination."

Be sure the non-flying friend or relative with a gate pass comes prepared with identification to go through security, says reader Maggie Kerrigan.

Just knowing what to expect — longer lines and more detailed inspections — helps take the edge off, says frequent traveler Susan Foster,

so he can ride to and from the plane.

• Dress your children in the same color of bright T-shirts, suggests a pilot's wife. While you wait for your flight, have your kids close their eyes and describe what Mommy looks like.

• Talk to your children about who to talk to if they get lost, and make sure they have full identification and gate information on them, says a mother of two girls in Texarkana, Texas.

**Can you help?**  
• Where do we find homeschooling supplies? How do we start for a kindergarten? —a mother

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author of "Smart Packing for Today's Traveler" (Smart Travel Press, 2004).

Your kids also need to be informed about airport security, says Foster, so there's not a meltdown when a beloved bear disappears briefly into the scanner or your kids have to take their new shoes off for inspection.

Another mother packs a small backpack for each of her kids with snacks and an assortment of colored pencils, a few favorite books, coloring books and writing tablets, small cars, a stuffed animal and a nap-sized blanket for chilly flights.

"If you let each child help pack their bag, they'll be more inclined to include things that will keep them occupied," she says.

Some kids feel grown-up with child-size rolling suitcases, but they need practice steering them through busy airports. Instead of a pocketbook, a fancy pack works best for Mom to free up both hands.

The Transportation Safety Administration's Web site, www.tsa.gov, includes tips for air travel.

For example, if your kids are carrying on electronic games or CD players, be prepared to prove to security that the devices work. Also, avoid wrapped gifts. They may need to be opened for inspection in carry-on or checked baggage.

Other tips from parents:  
• Even a busy 4-year-old will be glad to have an umbrella stroller to ride in at the airport. Check the stroller at the gate, hand it to the flight attendant at the aircraft door and retrieve it after the flight

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## NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

## PUBLIC SHUT OUT AT HEARING...

Continued from page 1

open process — this shows that at best it's rhetoric. They would be here," said Siegel, referring to Ratner and city officials.

Ratner purchased the New Jersey Nets in January and plans to bring them to Brooklyn. In addition to an 800,000-square-foot arena, he seeks to build four soaring office towers and 13 residential buildings.

While the original plan included knocking down more than two square blocks of privately owned property, Forest City Ratner officials said at Tuesday's hearings that they are working to minimize the eminent domain taking of property.

"We're looking at substantially modifying our plan if necessary," said FCR Vice President James Stuckey. "We're working with many of the residents and we're doing whatever we can to try and reduce the amount of condemnation because we think there's a win here, that we can do this project ... and do it in a way where we don't have to condemn people's homes."

But Stuckey said it was "a little premature" to discuss specifics, adding that they were looking at both shifting the plan and offering buyouts to residents to reduce the amount of eminent domain.

The Brooklyn Papers report-



A woman holds up an anti-Nets arena sign at the public hearing hosted in City Hall on Tuesday by the City Council's Committee on Economic Development.

ed on April 24 that Ratner and the architect for Atlantic Yards, Frank Gehry, were working on plans to construct a new building to house some of the residents whose plan would displace. And Gehry told Newsweek online last month, "Bruce [Ratner] is asking me to design a new apartment building for them [neighbors whose apartments might be destroyed by the complex]. He's got a specific site nearby."

Pressed by Manhattan Councilwoman Christine Quinn at the hearing about how much public money would be needed to build Atlantic Yards, Stuckey was evasive, first saying only that it was less than \$1 billion and more than \$10 million. Pushed further by Quinn, who asked if the price tag would be in "the hundreds of millions," Stuckey said, "I think that's fair."

That cost would put it on a par with the planned stadium for the New York Jets football team on Manhattan's Upper West Side. That project, which would also be a major part of the city's bid for the 2012 summer Olympics, would cost the city and state \$300 million each.

Ratner has been from the beginning pitched his arena, office and housing plan as being primarily funded by the tax dollars it would generate, much of which would come from the personal income taxes paid by the Nets basketball players.

Neither he nor city or borough officials have been willing to divulge the actual projected cost to the city.

An economic study on the arena commissioned by Ratner and released this week, estimated a public contribution of \$18 million in city and state funds, in addition to \$187.5 million in infrastructure costs.

Andrew Alper, president of the EDC, a city-run non-profit intended to spur business and industrial growth, praised the project at the hearing, saying the "benefits far outweigh the costs."

Alper said the Atlantic Yards plan would create 14,400 construction jobs and 7,600 permanent jobs.

Developers have also agreed to set aside 50 percent of the 4,500 units of housing for middle- and low-income housing.

Asked by several council members how much money the city expected to plan down, Alper said they were still working the figures.

"Until we know what kind of public financing [is involved] I don't think we can say the benefits far outweigh the costs," said Downtown Brooklyn Councilman David Yassky.

Alper said EDC would have those figures in the next few weeks.

The plan will most likely face a state review process and bypass the much more stringent city land use review process.

James, who helped push for the Council hearings, said she was disappointed.

"We didn't get any commitments on City Council playing a role, eliminating eminent domain, or real affordable housing," said James.

Before the hearing, James hosted a press conference to discuss alternative design plans for the Long Island Rail Road yards over which about half of the Ratner plan would sit.

Those designs included shifting the arena over Atlantic Avenue on a raised platform and onto the Atlantic City mall site that Ratner owns across the street.

Architect and urban designer Marshall Brown also presented plans for a site along the rail yards that includes buildings five to 10 stories tall with interlocking streets "stitching together" Fort Greene and Prospect Heights.

Neither plan would require the use of eminent domain as the project would be shifted a block north.

Rep. Major Owens proposes moving the entire plan to the Brooklyn Navy Yards.

## CRACKING...

Continued from page 1

Forest City Ratner spokesman Joe DePlasco declined to comment on tenant negotiations.

But at Tuesday's hearing, Forest City Ratner Vice President James Stuckey said the company was trying to reduce the amount of condemnation and said they may be able to do the plan "in a way where we don't have to condemn people's homes."

It was unclear whether Stuckey meant shifting the arena or buying out residents.

The sweeping, \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards plan proposes to

build a basketball arena for Ratner's recently purchased New Jersey Nets and 17 towers over the Long Island Rail Road storage yards and adjacent blocks emanating from the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues and stretching east into Prospect Heights.

Daniel Goldstein, a resident at 636 Pacific St. and a leader of Develop Don't Destroy-Brooklyn, said he was not involved in negotiations with Ratner, but declined to comment on his neighbors' negotiations.

"If he is able to remove people from their homes by offering

buyout packages, those negotiations were always in bad faith because they always had the threat of state condemnation behind them," said Goldstein, who testified at Tuesday's hearings.

Those sentiments were echoed by Patti Hagan, a spokeswoman for the Prospect Heights Action Coalition, a local group also formed to fight the Ratner arena plan.

Asked about why the other almost 300 residents facing eminent domain eviction did not show, Goldstein said, "People have to work."

Salvatore Perry, an architect who, with his wife, owns an apartment at 475 Dean St., which is also facing condemnation, said his building had

not made a deal with Ratner but declined to comment on any ongoing negotiations.

Joel Towers, an urban designer and renter in the building, who testified at Tuesday's hearing, said the tenants had met with Ratner in January and even had a video conference with architect Frank Gehry, who is designing the arena and surrounding office and residential towers.

While owners are busy negotiating, several renters are worried about what will happen to them.

Zafra Whitcomb, who moved into the building almost five years ago, said he doesn't know what he will do.

"Ratner is not negotiating with tenants," Whitcomb said.

## RATNER'S ARENA STUDY...

Continued from page 1

the housing and commercial properties are taken into consideration.

According to Zimbalist, the 17 residential towers, including 4,500 units of housing, would generate an average of \$60 million in city and state taxes per year. The more than 2 million square feet of commercial space would bring in close to \$15 million, Zimbalist says.

Gustav Peebles, a researcher at

Columbia University who lives in Fort Greene, sent the study out to a team of sports economists across the country following its release this week.

At Tuesday's City Council public hearing on the plan, Peebles, who is working with Develop Don't Destroy-Brooklyn, a group of residents fighting the plan, blasted many of Zimbalist's assumptions.

"Based on conversations with

former budget officials [Forest City Ratner] concludes that the increment in fire and police budget would be negligible," Zimbalist writes.

Peebles questioned the logic of that when adding 8 million square feet of development, roughly four times the size of the Empire State Building.

"Just the traffic cops at Atlantic and Flatbush avenues alone will have to be increased," Pee-

bles said.

In calculating how many non-season-ticket-holder Nets fans will travel to Brooklyn, Zimbalist uses numbers based on the New York Jets football team, which has played in New Jersey for more than two decades but retains its New York identity.

"That's ridiculous, the Jets have always been a New York team," said Peebles, adding that New Yorkers have to travel to New Jersey if they want to watch professional football, unlike basketball where they can just go to Madison Square Garden in Manhattan.

Peebles also wondered why if 60 percent of the people moving into the housing at Atlantic Yards, as Zimbalist says, are coming from out of state, New Yorkers should pay to subsidize the project.

"We should be asking New Jersey for money to subsidize these buildings if that's whose going to be moving into them," Peebles said.

Neil deMause, author of "Field of Schemes: How the Great Stadium Swindle Turns Public Money Into Private Profit" also questioned the study's outcome.

"His conclusions are that the arena would be a money loser but the housing would be so great that it would more than make up for the money you'd lose on the arena. So why are we building the arena?" asked deMause.

To make way for the plan, Ratner is also asking the state to use the power of eminent domain to condemn more than two square blocks of privately owned land. He is also seeking air rights to condemn more than two square blocks of privately owned land. He is also seeking air rights to condemn more than two square blocks of privately owned land.

Asked if the borough would be losing out if it only got housing and no basketball, deMause said, "From a fiscal standpoint we're winning because we don't have the fiscal debt."

Andrew Alper, president of the city Economic Development Corp., said at the council hearing that he still did not know how much in public funding would go into the project.

Even so, Zimbalist says the plan would be an overall boon to the city and state.

Even under the least favorable assumptions in my sensitivity analyses," Zimbalist concludes, "the fiscal impact of the Atlantic Yards project is a significant plus for New York City and New York State treasuries."

## IKEA...

Continued from page 1

over eight million square feet of adaptive reuse of old industrial buildings including buildings that were in far worse shape than these buildings," Stuever told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

The company uses historic tax credits to help fund their projects.

With "spectacular views" and "terrific old buildings," Stuever, whose company has projects up and down the eastern seaboard, can't say enough about the area.

"It's the most incredible site we've seen," he said.

Stuever says his plan would bring upwards of \$2.5 billion of investment to the area and 5,000 jobs.

Peg Breen, president of the New York Landmarks Conservancy, supports the SBER plan.

"There are very few places on the waterfront where you have a sense of that era and the buildings of that era," said Breen. "Clearly you can take buildings like this and do something with them if you have the imagination and the money."

Simeon Bankoff, executive director of the Historic Districts Council, said the organization had not taken an official stand on the project but the "preservation of old buildings is an admirable and important element of any large-scale development plan."

Carter Craft, director of the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, a network of New Jersey and New York organizations concerned about the waterfront, said they were most focused on preserving the dry docks on the site where ships could be repaired.

With waterfront transportation on the rise and New York Water Taxi moving its homeport to Red Hook, Craft said there is growing need for dry dock space.

Alexandry Washburn, an architect working for SBER, described the shipyards as a "village," with brick structures with heavy timber posts and machine buildings built in the 1920s that have a Bauhaus industrial design aesthetic with skylights and 20-foot-tall windows.

While preservationists might be pushing the SBER plan, Ikea has been in contract for the 23-acre site for almost two years and last week filed its application with the city, along with a hefty, 500-page environmental impact statement, as part of the public review process.

In addition to creating new jobs in Red Hook, an area of high unemployment, Ikea is planning a 6.3-acre public waterfront promenade and plans to lease four piers to the neighboring Erie Basin Barge Port.

Ikea also promises to maintain a dry dock, convert an existing pier into a public area and maintain five gantry cranes on the site so visitors can learn about working-waterfront activities.

"Ikea has worked closely with both city and state historic preservation officials since the beginning of this project and we have determined that the Civil War-era structure currently located on the New York Shipyard site has deteriorated to a point that its re-use in the Ikea Red Hook project is not feasible," said Pat Smith, project director for Ikea Red Hook.

Ikea land use attorney Jesse Masry also blasted what he called a "so-called 'alternative' proposal," saying it "exists solely as a fantasy rendering drawn over other people's property."

"There is absolutely nothing 'real' about this supposed alternative," added Masry.

Stuever said his company has contacted Ikea officials and offered to help them find an alternative site.

The Ikea application will be reviewed by Community Board 6, Borough President Marty Markowitz, the City Planning Commission and the City Council. The community board's Landmarks/Land Use committee has scheduled the first public hearing of the process for Thursday, May 13, at 6 pm at the PAL Miccio Center, at 110 W. Ninth St. in Red Hook.

If Ikea is approved by the city, Stuever said, his plan for the Red Hook waterfront is dead. But he said he is not throwing in the towel just yet and still hopes the city will turn down Ikea.

Said Stuever, "Our argument is that if you believe in [Mayor Michael] Bloomberg's vision for the waterfront, [Ikea] is not the right thing."

SBER does not currently own any of the land it wants to develop.

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